

Descartes' Epistemological Assumptions

Metaphysical Realism: reality has objective structure; nature is independent of human understanding/perspectives

Objectivism: the structure of reality is, in principle, accessible to human understanding

Individualism: humans approach the task of gaining knowledge of the world as solitary individuals

Rationalism: the principle human faculty for attaining knowledge of reality is reason

Universalism: the faculties of reason and sensation are, in principle, the same for all individuals

Foundationalism: there is a certain, indubitable foundation upon which all knowledge can be validly inferred

Dualism (well, it's a metaphysical assumption, but what the heck): mind is fundamentally different from body/reason is separate from emotion